

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 085517

ORIGIN EB-08

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, FR,

SUBJECT: DOT RELEASE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
(EIS) ON CONCORDE

1. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION HAS PREPARED FOLLOWING
PRESS RELEASE FOR 1500 EST APRIL 15.

QUOTE. SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION BROCK ADAMS TODAY
ANNOUNCED THAT THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION IS
RESPONDING TO THE U.S. DISTRICT COURT ORDER THAT A DRAFT
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) ON THE ISSUANCE OF
NOISE RULES FOR CIVIL SUPERSONIC AIRCRAFT, INCLUDING THE
BRITISH-FRENCH CONCORDE BE FILED WITH THE COURT.

THE DRAFT EIS ADDRESSES A FULL RANGE OF REGULATORY OPTIONS
FROM A BAN ON ALL CIVIL SST OPERATIONS TO UNCONSTRAINED AND
COMPLETELY DEVELOPED SST OPERATIONS.

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 STATE 085517

IT IS CUSTOMARY PRACTICE UNDER THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL
POLICY ACT TO REPORT BEST CASE AND WORST CASE PROJECTIONS
SECRETARY ADAMS SAID. IT IS ALSO HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT THE
CONCORDE WILL SERVE ALL THE AIRPORTS COVERED BY THE

DRAFT EIS, ESPECIALLY AS SOME OF THOSE AIRPORTS HAVE
ALREADY MADE KNOWN THAT THEY WOULD NOT ADMIT CONCORDES.

ADDITIONALLY, ADAMS NOTED, "THE DRAFT EIS ADDRESSES A TOTAL SST BAN OPTION AND PROJECTS NOISE LEVELS AT THESE MAJOR AIRPORTS IF SSTS ARE PROHIBITED. THESE TWO OPTIONS, AS WELL AS MIDDLE RANGE ALTERNATIVES, WILL BE CAREFULLY REVIEWED BY THE DEPARTMENT BEFORE ANY SST NOISE RULE IS FINALLY ADOPTED."

THE DRAFT EIS WAS PRODUCED IN ACCORDANCE WITH AN ORDER ISSUED OCTOBER 8, 1976, BY THE U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA. IT RESPONDS TO TWO NOTICES OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING SUBMITTED TO FAA BY THE ENVIROMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY.

THE DRAFT EIS FILED WITH THE COURT UNDER THE SO-CALLED "WORST CASE" PROJECTION ASSUMES A WORLD-WIDE FLEET OF 30 TO 40 CONCORDES AND PROJECTS THEIR IMPACTS ON THE 12 U.S. INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS MOST LIKELY TO WARRANT THE RELATIVELY HIGH-COST SUPERSONIC SERVICE.

THE 12 AIRPORTS FOR WHICH NOISE IMPACT OF POTENTIAL SST FLIGHTS WERE ANALYZED ARE: ANCHORAGE, BOSTON, DALLAS /FORT WORTH, HONOLULU, LOS ANGELES, MIAMI, HOUSTON, CHICAGO, SEATTLE, SAN FRANCISCO, WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK.

AT PRESENT, THERE IS NO SST NOISE RULE. CONCORDE OPERATIONS WERE AUTHORIZED BY FORMER SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION WILLIAM T. COLEMAN, JR., ON FEBRUARY 5, UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 085517

1976. THE COLEMAN DECISION AUTHORIZED CONCORDE FLIGHTS INTO DULLES AIRPORT IN VIRGINIA, A FEDERAL INSTALLATION AND KENNEDY AIRPORT IN NEW YORK FOR A SIXTEEN-MONTH TRIAL PERIOD.

SECRETARY ADAMS SAID THAT A PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD ON THE IMPACT STATEMENT AND RELATED INFORMATION LATER THIS YEAR, AFTER COMPLETION OF THE DULLES TEST FLIGHT DATA HAS BEEN ANALYZED. CONCORDE SERVICE AT DULLES BEGAN ON MAY 24, 1976.

THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION IS MONITORING THE DULLES EXPERIMENT. DATA GATHERED THERE WILL BE USED TO DETERMINE WHETHER A NOISE RULE SHOULD BE DEVELOPED WHICH WILL PERMIT FURTHER SST LANDINGS. IT IS GENERALLY CONCEDED THAT THE PRESENT DESIGN SST CANNOT BE MADE

QUIETER. THUS A NOISE EMISSION STANDARD APPLICABLE TO CONCORDE WILL EITHER BAN OR PERMIT ITS OPERATION IN THE

U.S. UNQUOTE

2. FACT SHEET ACCOMPANYING RELEASE CONTAINED FOLLOWING INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE OF SOME USE IF ASKED.

QUOTE. THE NOISE IMPACTS PROJECTED FOR THE WORST CASE LEVEL OF OPERATIONS AT THE TWELVE AIRPORTS INDICATE THAT THEY WOULD INCREASE THE NUMBER OF AIRPORT NEIGHBORS SERIOUSLY IMPACTED BY AIRCRAFT NOISE (GREATER THAN NEF 40) BY APPROXIMATELY 55 , COMPARED TO PROJECTED AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS AT THOSE SAME AIRPORTS WITH NO CONCORDE OPERATIONS. THE NUMBER OF AIRPORT NEIGHBORS WHO ARE CONSIDERABLY ANNOYED BY AIRPORT NOISE (GREATER THAN NEF 30 WOULD INCREASE BY 10 .

THESE PROJECTIONS WERE MADE FOR THE YEAR 1987, CONSIDERING THE ESTIMATED INCREASES IN AIRPORT OPERATIONS FOR THAT UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 04 STATE 085517

YEAR AND THE EFFECTS OF THE RECENT FAA REGULATION THAT REQUIRES CIVIL SUBSONIC AIRCRAFT TO MEET THE NOISE LIMITS OF FEDERAL AVIATION REGULATIONS, PART 36, BY 1985. THE EVALUATIONS ALSO PROVIDE NOISE IMPACTS AT THE TWELVE AIRPORTS FOR 1978, AS A BASIS FOR COMPARISON.

BECAUSE CONSIDERABLE NOISE REDUCTIONS WILL BE REALIZED FROM FAA REGULATIONS FOR SUBSONIC AIRCRAFT ISSUED LATE LAST YEAR, THE NUMBER OF AIRPORT NEIGHBORS SERIOUSLY IMPACTED BY AIRPORT NOISE (GREATER THAN NEF 40) WILL DECREASE BY APPROXIMATELY 58 FROM 1978 TO 1987 EVEN WITH UNCONSTRAINED CONCORDE OPERATIONS. WITHOUT CONCORDE, THE REDUCTION WOULD BE 73 .

WITH THE PROJECTED CONCORDE OPERATIONS, THE NUMBER OF AIRPORT NEIGHBORS CONSIDERABLY ANNOYED BY AIRPORT NOISE (GREATER THAN NEF 30) WILL DROP BY APPROXIMATELY 26 IN THAT SAME PERIOD. WITHOUT CONCORDE, THE REDUCTION WOULD BE 33 PCT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Disposition Event:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Subject: DOT RELEASE OF ENVIROMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) ON CONCORDE
TAGS: EAIR, SENV, FR, DOT
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vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0bd698a4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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